SOCCER NEWS

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THE BRIGHTON CLUB

(see pages 4 and 5)

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SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1954

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SOCCER NEWS

The Official Organ of the
VICTORIAN AMATEUR SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Vol 7, No. 1 SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1954

Season's Greetings

Once again "King Football" reigns and Soccer News is back with him. Each week for the next six months your favorite sporting weekly (?) will be on sale at all Victorian soccer grounds to keep you in touch with the latest developments of the game.

This year, in view of repeated requests, we hope to give more space to local affairs and less to overseas. To facilitate this our old friend, Rex (Home and Away) Benson will fill more space in our paper and will devote more time to Soccer News than in previous years. Rex is hungry for news, so if he turns up at your ground give him all you have and he will see that your club gets publicity.

This year also we hope to have more and better pictures. We are to inform readers that Nat Rothfield (Vice-President of V.A.S.F.A.) returned from England with a Press camera that looks like a young suitcase, and he has come to our assistance, together with Sam Gold, another keen photographer. Early results from both look very promising, and it is confidently hoped that Soccer News will benefit considerably from their efforts.

So, with today's opening game, Soccer News wishes you a happy and successful soccer season.

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EDITORIAL

All communications re Soccer News to the Editor,
V. J. M. DIXON, 2 Cowper Street, Sandringham.

The 1954 season will go down in Victorian soccer history as one of the most momentous of all time, for at last no less than four First Division clubs have their own enclosed grounds and are able to charge for admission—the secret of financial success in any sport. When last season the Hakoah club acquired the use of St. Kevin's Oval, followed shortly afterwards by Moreland (who fenced in Campbell Reserve), it was obvious that at last soccer was moving in the right direction. This year, with Juventus acquiring the use of the Showgrounds for "home" games, an even greater step forward was made. It fell to Brighton, however, to spring the biggest surprise of all in gaining the use of Elsternwick Park on alternative Saturdays in conjunction with the Brighton Aussie Rules club. There can be no doubt that this step has caused consternation in Aussie Rules circles, and it can be expected that the full weight of the V.F.L., V.F.A. and A.N.F.C. will be thrown into the scales: but no doubt Brighton President (Bill Thomas, junr.) and his committee are well prepared and we are confident that they will hang on.

The major highlight of the early stages of the 1954 season will be the Interstate Carnival which this year will be held in Adelaide at Easter, with all six States competing. Already the Interstate Trophy (which Victoria has held for the last two years) has been sent over to Adelaide, but we confidently expect that the Victorian team will bring it back with them again. Victory will not be easy, for apart from our last year's conquerors—Queensland, and also New South Wales—who will have to be overcome, South Australia is always a hard team to beat in Adelaide as we have found to our cost in previous years. Tasmania and W.A. also are known to be strong.

The running of an Interstate Carnival at such an early date in the season is not, in our opinion, a very bright idea, but Victoria has to fall in line whether we like it or not. With Easter only two weeks off the team had to be picked more or less on last year's performances, which is most unsatisfactory, and the fact that it affects all States in the same way, does not make things any better. However, here's wishing the best of luck to Manager Fred Lang and Assist.-Manager, Des Hamilton, and their team.

The full list of games for the Interstate Carnival will be found on another page.

We regret that at the time of going to press it would seem that the Sunday soccer broadcast, sponsored last year by Woods' Radio and Lexington Cigarettes, will not be on the air this year. This is not the fault of the sponsors, both of whom were more than satisfied and prepared to carry on, nor is it the fault of the commentator, Alex. Barr. Whose fault it is we would not care to hazard to guess, but soccer fans generally will be sad and sorry to miss it. Here's hoping difficulties can be surmounted and that we shall have our Sunday broadcast after all.

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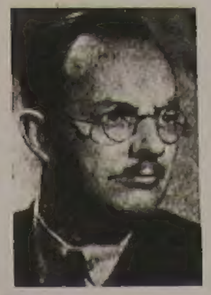

MUSICAL CHAIRS

By JOHN HAWKER

By now Soccer's annual "Musical Chairs" game is practically over. Most of the "one club-one year" players have made their annual change and settled in to the clubs with which they have chosen to play at least for the opening games.

Some fans, no doubt, will fail to recognise their own teams and think they have wandered into the wrong park. Let them be reassured. The clubs, the officials, the reserves and the juniors are just the same. Only the players are different; most of them were here last year as opponents!

Yes, the Reserves and the Juniors are the same—still waiting to get a fair go; a chance of a place in the First Team which, year after year, is made up of newcomers from overseas, and itchy-footed men with wanderlust and no particular loyalties.

Each year promising juniors are lost to soccer because, seeing no chances of "making" the first team, they take up other games which appear to offer more scope. Not, of course, that there are really too many juniors for our needs. If proper use was made of them there would be far too few.

The Junior Association has consistently advocated that it should be made obligatory for every First and Second Division club to field at least one Junior team. Under certain circumstances, this could be a valuable move, but there is little use compelling clubs to field juniors unless a strong effort is made to bring a reasonable number of them up to the standards of overseas players and, further, assurance is given that they will be used.

A possible solution to this problem might be the insistance by the Association that every team should contain a certain percentage of Australian-born players.

In Italy, First Division clubs may not play more than two imported players in any one game. This regulation came into being because an influx of Swedish players threatened at one stage to block all avenues for the local boys.

Some of those players who by now have played for nearly every club in the League could afford to settle down for a while and help coach a few youngsters to take their places in due course.

The policy of relying on migration to keep all teams filled cannot long succeed. Only Australia can produce enough young players to meet the proper demands of the future.

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POT SHOTS

By "ONLOOKER"

Welcome, readers of Soccer News, to the start of another football season. During the next few months it is hoped that this column will provide you with many items of mutual interest.

The pre-season transfer of players to various clubs has taken place with less fuss than when one Australian Rules player was seen training on another team's ground.

Everyone present at last Saturday's Hakoah-Brighton "debacle" could not help but have been impressed with Hakoah's new signing, inside-right, Henry Rice. His ball control was a delight to watch. I wonder how many local clubs know that this ex-Scottish League player has been living in Melbourne for four years without playing soccer?

Believe Moorabbin Club has been hard hit by retirements this year. Vacancies exist in both first and reserves teams for likely players. Anyone wishing to join this club can do so by contacting President Jack Rickerby (telephone, JB 1703).

Moreland by their performances last week look like playing a prominent part in this season's competition. They are relying on much the same team as last year, minus Eric Heath, of course.

As usual, Juventus have the makings of a strong team. However, they will need another sharp-shooter to take the place of Bill Copeland. Believe Bill has gone out to Deer Park way to help I.C.I.

By the way, Brighton's new arrival, left-back, Frank Posselt, is not a pastor. Frank's teachings are academic—he is at the Teachers' Training College.

Early season tip for League Champions—Hakoah. For the Dockerty Cup—well anything can happen in cup ties—look at Port Vale's good run.

* * *

FEATURING BRIGHTON

Today we feature the Brighton Club and its fine new ground at Elsternwick. Pictures on the opposite page tell the story better than words can.

From time to time as space and finance permit we hope to feature other well-known clubs who like Brighton have played their part in making soccer a force to be reckoned with.

* * *

Our Cover

AN HISTORIC MOMENT

Brighton takes the ground at Elsternwick for the first time. R. to L.: Roger Parvin, Bobby Devlin, Alan Thompson and Alex. Barr.

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Some of the men who pulled off the deal. Treas. Andy Keane, Pres. Bill Thomas, Committeeman F. Meier.

In the Brighton dressing room. L. to R.: Angus Drennen, Bobby Devlin, Ralph Walker

Justification for an enclosed ground? A section of the crowd at Elsternwick for the Brighton-Hakoah practice game.

They're queueing up at Elsternwick

V.A.S.F.A. BULLETIN

(This column has previously been written under Secretary's Notes and is compiled by the Secretary of the V.A.S.F.A. by the direction of Council).

Each season as our Association grows it is increasingly important that all followers of our code are kept up to date with decisions made by Council and its sub-committees.

In this column clubs will be advised of alterations to fixtures, change of Secretaries and addresses, notification of meetings and business discussed by Council, etc., etc.

Publication of the above matters in this column will be regarded as official notification to clubs.

1. Telephoning Results.—Clubs are reminded that all results must be notified to the Secretary of the V.A.S.F.A. on completion of match each Saturday. Tel: UY 8347.

2. Transfer Fee for a player is now 20/- (Twenty Shillings) and not 2/6 as previously.

3. An important alteration to the rules has been made which affects players desiring to return to the field of play after leaving same for various reasons during a match.

The official instruction is as follows: "This alteration will allow a player to join his team after a game has started without waiting for a stoppage of the game. Similarly, if he has been injured and wishes to rejoin his team he may do so. In both cases he must be sure that the referee is aware that he has entered the field of play. A slight nod of the referee's head or a signal with his hand is sufficient."

The above ruling will eliminate players wasting their time off the field until the ball goes out of play, and will also stop players deliberately kicking the ball out of play to allow their colleagues to return.

Remember, players must obtain a signal from the referee before they can resume playing.

S. BEATON, Secretary.

* * *

RINGING THE CHANGES

As was to be expected, there will be many players this season playing against their old club. Followers of the game would be interested to know if there must be an interval of time between a change of clubs, and what is the registration fee involved in every new signing.

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HOME and AWAY

By REX BENSON

NEW RULES

Alterations to the Laws of the Game, made at the International Board meeting last year, could well be brought forward again to the notice of those affected.

One gives belated authority to the referee to decide whether the ball is suitable for use in a match, and the other allows a player to join his team after a game has started, without waiting for a stoppage of the game. Similarly, if he has been injured, and wishes to rejoin his team, he may do so. In both cases he must be sure that the referee is aware that he has entered the field of play. A slight nod of the referee's head or a signal with his hand will be sufficient.

This latter ruling will obviate a captain deliberately booting the ball out of play to bring on a player, as happened in one match last season.

CHEERS — THEN JEERS

The Royal Tour has been poor training for some — they will soon be making different sounds behind the barriers. A long way from play, how more expert they are than the man with the whistle who apparently suffers from either blindness in both eyes, or acute sight in only one.

PUFFING BILLIES

Having seen so many lolling tongues and leaden boots long before the end of a game, how about a slogan for the coming season: "Keep fit to play" and not "Play to keep fit"?

INTERSTATE TROPHY

A good brand of metal-cleaner should be in readiness to put the polish on the Interstate Trophy, that was sadly lacking when it was last on display. It should look its best when we take leave of it later this season, as that will be the outcome if the last Dockerty Cup Final is any indication of some of the playing strength of the State. It was one of the worst advertisements that the game has had in Melbourne.

ODDITY FROM OVERSEAS

This unusual incident occurred in a minor league match at Chippenham, England, this season.

Following a long kick out of play on the stand side, the referee signalled for the second ball, which arrived from the opposite side just as the first ball, which had by now been retrieved, was thrown in. The throw put the Chippenham winger clean away, and he was chased by the opposing back, who was still carrying the second ball, which he had picked up to toss to the player taking the throw-in. Just as the winger was about to centre, the back, unable to get near enough to tackle, rolled the second ball alongside the first, so that the two appeared to be in play.

The referee gave a foul for "ungentlemanly conduct". It could not have been "hands" as the second ball was not in play. I should be interested to hear of a more unusual occurrence.

WHITE BALL ON THE WAY OUT?

There is a distinct possibility that in future all games in England will be played with an orange-coloured ball, that will prove suitable for all conditions.

FOUL THROW

The passing of the rule which substituted a throw-in to the opposing side for a foul throw-in is to be regretted. If the free-kick were to be re-introduced, much of the present slovenly throwing-in would be eliminated.

In cricket, if a bowler bowls a no-ball he is automatically penalised, sometimes to the extent of being hit over the ropes for a six. Therefore, he keeps his foot behind the crease, and no-balls are few and far between. In soccer, on the other hand, the careless thrower merely forfeits his right to the throw, and in actual fact, gives his side an extra man on the field. The rule is very simple and a foul-throw should be as infrequent as a penalty kick.

How many teams take full advantage of the throw, and how often is the surprise long throw used? More often than not the ball is immediately nodded or tapped back to the thrower, who thereupon gives it a kick upfield. It does not show much originality, and teams would do well to practise possible moves from the throw-in.

OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT

It is on good authority that when the coach to the Australian Soccer team was in Melbourne last year, in an attempt to weld a team together in two days for the Test against the Chinese, he was demonstrating the very fundamentals of kicking the ball. Rather like teaching State cricketers how to hold a bat, yet it was astounding to discover the number of players who toed the ball instead of using the instep. If players do not start out correctly, there seems little hope of their progressing very far.

The real start of a player is when he is a small boy, and he should begin by kicking around an old tennis ball, as nearly all the great ball players did, whether in Britain, the Continent, or South America. If I were to donate a pound note to the Benevolent Bookmakers' Fund for the times per year that I see this happening in Melbourne, I would not be out of pocket. What usually happens is that when too young, a boy is expected to play with a full-sized ball. A few headers on the wrong part of the head, and attempts to kick the ball when wet, soon put him off, and he is lost to the game during the rest of his adolescence, instead of developing in the game gradually.

So, you fathers and uncles, don't give a lad a big ball until he is old enough to kick it around.

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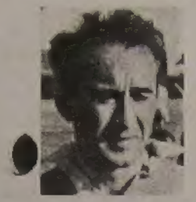
JOE GOTTESMAN LOOKS AHEAD

By CHARLES DODD

Thirty-three-years-old Joe Gottesman, brilliant centre-forward for Hakoah, so dashing and full of confidence on the field of play, was so diffident when interviewed by our columnist that it was necessary to approach his team-mates and officials to learn his football history.



Joe Gottesman

Always a keen player, he rendered sterling service to Jednota Kosice football team in Czechoslovakia — both as a player and a junior coach, prior to emigrating to Melbourne.

For the past 3½ years he has been one of those players who has helped considerably to make Hakoah the successful and popular team it is today. Scoring 32 goals for his club in the 1953 season was an excellent feat against the opposition encountered and on his showing in the State Trials he will again make his presence felt in 1954.

Perhaps one of the secrets of his success is the friendship which exists between Joe and his team-mates, and which he greatly values.

Joe's ambitions for the future are to play a few more seasons for his club and then do a job that he considers of vital importance to Victorian soccer. We could not agree more, for what he wishes to do is to teach and coach junior players in order that we may continue to raise the standard of play in this State until it compares favourably with premier soccer-playing countries of the world. He feels that the great potential we have in the sons of migrants is being allowed to drift away from the game because of lack of trainers to keep these boys in the game.

In business Joe is making progress with his blouse manufacturing, and we know that all soccer followers will wish him luck for the future.

* * *

SNAKES AND LADDERS

The promotion and relegation question was well put recently in our local press. The senior clubs might well ponder among themselves whether the loss of two clubs each season to the lower division is not one too many, especially now that most of the wheat has been sifted from the chaff, and the First Division now contains almost all the premier clubs.

PEGASUS PLAY IN HONG KONG

The F.A. Amateur Cup-holders, "Pegasus", recently toured Hong Kong, but were no more successful against the locals than were the Australian teams last season.

* * *

EVERY ONE A WINNER

Some of the unusual records of soccer at first sight do not appear so extraordinary. When it is considered that on an average, one penalty kick in three is not converted, the fact that when Ditchburn saved a penalty against Cardiff for the 'Spurs, it was the first one missed against the club in Cup and League for 25 years, the record seems incredible.

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WHY NOT AN INTERSTATE LEAGUE?

By J. CHAPLETON

Recent interstate matches or carnivals have proved a financial success so why not an interstate league on the principle of the international league in U.K.? Presuming that the following States (N.S.W., S.A., Qld., and/or Tas., W.A.) were willing to participate, then it would mean that each State would have a minimum of at least one interstate game per season. Also it would create the competitive angle to the games both amongst the States and also the players, each league player vieing for inclusion in the State team. It may be argued by teams in the running for cup or league honours that they were losing the services of "star" players selected, but since in the course of six months, this amounted to said players losing four or five games for their respective league teams, the loss would be negligible. As an alternative these interstate games could be organised for Sundays, the team leaving Melbourne or Sydney, etc. Saturday night or Sunday morning. As the V.A.S.F.A., obviously, have observed in the past that interstate or international games have drawn near capacity gates, then also it must be apparent that the magnet must be: (a) a better class football than ordinary league matches; (b) interstate or international rivalry.

It is common knowledge that the V.A.S.F.A. have voluntary coaches going round the various high schools and technical colleges, etc., but since the extent of their coaching methods is not known generally, perhaps these few suggestions might be of use.

Flood the schools with soccer magazines, etc., particularly of the pictorial type, since these are more inclined to hold the interest of the boys. Newsreels of some of the bigger games from U.K. could be procured and shown either around the schools or at the local soccer clubrooms, the emphasis being that the youngsters be given preference re admission. A number of complimentary tickets for interstate games could be issued to the schools for distribution. I would venture to say that most of these young lads are lost to junior and senior soccer on leaving school. It would be in the interests of the various secretaries of the league clubs to keep in touch with these lads, find out their homes addresses, and go along personally (or some other representative of the club), and invite the young lads to the clubs.

On the subject of news. Without wishing to cast any aspersions against any of the scribes. Are some of the journalists quite fair? I quote the instance quite recently where it was published that the F.A. Cup finalists (Blackpool and Bolton Wanderers), also East Fife, had been contacted with a view to a tour by said teams of Australia. Although I personally (and through good authority) know that neither of these teams is contemplating a tour this season, the majority of the fans who depend on the daily newspapers are left in the air. Correct me if I am wrong, but since the article was first published there hasn't been any confirmation or denial whether the tour would be undertaken. Hardly fair!

THE WORLD CUP . . . 1954

By SID GRANT

The year 1954 is of vital importance to soccer as the famous World cup will be staged, on this occasion, in Switzerland.

This series is for the internationally known Jules Rimet trophy which is at present held by Uruguay, winner of the 1950 series staged in Brazil.

The world tournament is controlled by the F.I.F.A. and is open to all countries.

Early last year the committee, which awarded the venue to Switzerland, grouped the nations into 13 zones.

Switzerland, the host nation, and the cup holder, Uruguay, were exempted from preliminary rounds and included in the final pool.

The first grouping is interesting; here it is:—

1. Germany: Norway and Saar.
2. Belgium: Finland and Sweden.
3. England: Scotland, Ireland, Wales.
4. Elsewhere: France and Luxemburg.
5. Austria and Portugal.
6. Spain and Turkey.
7. Hungary and Poland.
8. Bulgaria: Rumania and Czechoslovakia.
9. Egypt and Italy.
10. Greece: Israel and Yugoslavia.
11. Hoyti: Mexico and United States.
12. Brazil and Chili.
13. China: Korea and Japan.

THE COUNTRIES TO VISIT SWITZERLAND

One country from each zone will go to Switzerland, except in Group 3, from which two countries will qualify. Therefore, sixteen nations will commence a knock-out series in the host country, starting in the second week of August.

It will be noticed that Russia, Argentina, Australia and South Africa did not enter. Late entries forwarded by India, Peru and Vietnan, were rejected.

The qualifying rounds will all be completed by the opening week in April.

The present British international series will determine the two teams to qualify from the British Isles.

One strict rule has been included. That is — no international matches between April and August may be organised between any of the 16 nations which qualify for the final pool without the consent of the Swiss Football Association. (The Swiss F.A. has been working unceasingly for the past twelve months to stage the Big series.) For instance, the National Press committee has branches in all towns to distribute information to journalists and radio commentators and such information will be printed and broadcast in English, Italian, French German and Spanish.

During the great celebration of the World cup series, the F.I.F.A. will celebrate its fifth birthday, at a special congress to be held at Berne and a huge banquet will be held at the Spiez castle and Medieval fortress situated in the beautiful Bernese Alps.

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Present intentions are to conduct the grand final at a specially constructed concrete stadium in Berne, while other matches will be staged at Zurich, Basle, Geneva, Tessin and Lausanne.

Footballs to be used, will not bear the makers name or any mark which will lead to their identification. Referees to control the series must attend a special course of instruction which will be held at Berne on June 14 and 15.

Favourite for the 1954 World cup is Hungary. In that country, football is played for nine months each year. There are 1300 clubs and 125,000 players.

To date, Hungary has played in about 410 international matches for 155 wins, since 1901. However, it is in recent years, that Hungary has done best in this kind of match.

The holders of the cup, Uruguay, are undergoing special preparation but ground surface may detract from their fast open style.

Latest cable gives the following information regarding qualifications in each group.

1. Norway or Germany.
2. Belgium.
3. England and Scotland.
4. Eire.
5. Austria.
6. Spain.
7. Hungary.
8. Czechoslovakia.
9. Italy.
10. Yugoslavia.
11. United States.
12. Brazil or Chili.
13. China.

Previous winners of the world cup are:—

1930—Uruguay.
1934—Italy.
1938—Italy.
1950—Uruguay.

* * *

NEW STUDS GAIN FAVOUR

A new type of football stud, composed of nylon, is gaining popularity in England. The old type was never satisfactory, and hammers and lasts have had to be part of the stock in trade of football trainers.

Made in the Midlands, the studs will outlast the older types, without losing shape or grip. They do not have nails which have always been a curse; instead each stud has a metal insert screwing into a special recess on the boot. It is a simple matter to unscrew the studs, which are of two types, for hard and soft grounds. As yet they have not appeared on the Australian market, but they will have a ready sale when they do.

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TRIAL MATCHES

By REX BENSON

Although no reliable guide whatever to form, as players are not so foolish as to go flat out on summer-baked pitches, the main interest in trial matches lies in the new faces.

Three "dark horses" were on view at the Hakoah-J.U.S.T. friendly match, watched by a surprisingly large crowd. Too much had been expected from recent arrival, young Stava Guld, the J.U.S.T. centre-forward, who has not yet reached his eighteenth birthday. He had plenty of dash, but was not given an inch of rope by Tom Jack, and consequently did not have a single crack at goal worth the mention. Doubtless he will have his chance later on, but it will be a surprise to see him in the first team immediately. With regard to goalkeeper Gough, who "kept" for the second half, he is a definite possibility on this showing. His handling was efficient and clean, lacking unnecessary theatricals, and his clearances well upfield. He has played with the Royal Navy and Hounslow, the London amateur club. He could be just the steady last line that J.U.S.T. requires.

On the other side, Harry Rice, although carrying weight, showed himself a tireless player, and his shrewd passes through the centre were absolutely squandered. It is a belief that all boys in Scotland cut their first teeth on either a golf-ball or a soccer boot, so it is surprising to learn that Harry, who played for Falkirk in the First Division of the Scottish League, played tennis during his first three years in Australia, and has only just returned to his old love. It can be argued, of course, that the standard of our game four years ago was not appealing; perhaps it has improved somewhat.

Although Ressler scored a fine goal, Hakoah might well consider a change on the left wing. His attempts to centre were weak, and his corner kicks were really clearances for the defence. This fault was in evidence last season, and could have cost Hakoah the Cup.

Of the Brighton v. Hakoah return game, the result was a fair indication of the play. The Brighton inside-forwards were in the pockets of the Hakoah wing-halves, and the forward line as a whole was frequently out of position, Balabanski being the worst offender. Rice again impressed, and as often happens, Sutherland and Thomas rose to the occasion against their old team-mates. It seems almost certain that some graduates from the Juniors will be in the first team this season.

The most unhappy Brighton man at the game was the one on the gate, who had to turn away cars because the car-park was full, which event was unique in the history of the ground.

* * *

WITCH-HUNTING — 1954

We have been aware of the banning of soccer legally, during the Middle Ages, because it interfered with archery practise. We are also aware of the pressure-groups attempting to suppress it in Victoria. Now comes the latest effort, this time from Eire.

A St. Patrick's Day broadcast to Eirean exiles was cancelled because soccer, instead of their own brand of mayhem mudlarking, was to have a fleeting mention. Quoted one diehard: "It was a cunning attempt to give an Imperialistic game a national complexion." I wonder what the Moscow "Dynamos" will do now?

England down to Hungary

By V. J. M. DIXON

Highlight of the "off" season was the defeat of England by Hungary at Wembley. Unbeaten at home by "foreign" sides (except Scotland, who, I understand, make a habit of it), England were not only beaten but overwhelmed—as the score of 6-3 shows.

Out-manoeuvred, out-positioned and out-played, the English team still endeavored to make a game of it and at one time managed to get on level terms.

The Hungarians' goals were scored by Hidegkuti (centre-forward) (3), Puskas (inside-left) (1) and Bozsik (right-half) (1), while Mortenson, Sewell and Ramsay scored for England.

The debacle must come as a lesson to England where League games are given preference to International matches. In European countries National teams are given months of preparation, whereas in England and Scotland it is common policy to bring a team together only at the last moment. The shock of this defeat to English football morale has been enormous. To quote only one authority—John Thompson (well-known English football writer): "The outlook is dark. There is at present no reason for hoping that England will soon regain her post-war supremacy. The fiasco of the last World Cup apparently taught us nothing and it is probably too late now to do anything to improve our chances in the next World Cup tournament in Switzerland in June."

Probably the outlook is not quite as black as John Thompson presumes, for Englishmen are renowned for their versatility and no doubt they will bring their World Cup team together in good time for training and give them the opportunity of playing together as a team.

It is difficult for those of us who saw Reg Flewin's English team play at the M.C.G. three years ago to swallow statements that "The English players too often made wild passes. The Hungarians found their man nine times out of ten. The English made two moves to bring the ball under control to every one made by their opponents!

Only satisfaction England could have from the game was that Englishmen taught the Hungarians how to play football. But such thoughts will not bring back England's vanished supremacy. Only long-range planning can do that.

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CARNIVAL TEAM

The Victorian team for the Interstate Carnival in Adelaide at Easter will be chosen from the following: — S. Czauderna, T. Jack (capt.), P. Clarke (vice-capt.), B. Zblocki, S. Thomas, J. Lachmann, P. Schipperbyn, J. Gottesmann, R. Weymess, L. Stott, R. Walker, A. Drennen, H. Garncarczyk, R. McKenzie, H. Sutherland, W. Vesovic, R. Strahan, all of whom will travel to South Australia.

Mr. F. LANG, Manager.
Mr. D. HAMILTON, Assist.-Manager.

INTERSTATE CARNIVAL FIXTURES IN ADELAIDE

Thursday, 15/4/54
(Under floodlight)
6.30 p.m.—Tas. v. N.S.W.
7.50 p.m.—Vic. v. Q'land.
9.10 p.m.—S.A. v. W.A.

Friday, 16/4/54
1.15 p.m.—S.A. v. Tas.
2.35 p.m.—N.S.W. v. Vic.
3.55 p.m.—Q'land v. W.A.

Saturday, 17/4/54
1.15 p.m.—W.A. v. Tas.
2.35 p.m.—N.S.W. v. Q'land.
3.55 p.m.—S.A. v. Vic.

Sunday, 18/4/54
1.15 p.m.—Vic. v. Tas.
2.35 p.m.—S.A. v. Q'land.
3.55 p.m.—W.A. v. N.S.W.

Monday, 19/4/54
1.15 p.m.—Tas v. Q'land.
2.35 p.m.—Vic. v. W.A.
3.55 p.m.—S.A. v. N.S.W.

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Australian Soccer F.A. Sec., F. R. Druery, says . . .

ENCOURAGE INTERSTATE COMPETITION

It has often occurred to me that we do not encourage interstate competition.

Since The Football Association Trophy was presented to the Australian Association in 1925 for interstate competition, very little use has been made of it.

Because of expense involved, very few attempts have been made in the intervening period to inaugurate an interstate competition to play for this magnificent trophy, which is valued at £500.

The competitions that have been held were only organised by State associations that were prepared to accept the financial responsibility.

The Australian association is now in a position to give this most important matter closer attention and it is proposed to conduct the first all-Australian carnival in Adelaide during Easter, 1954, and every State in the Commonwealth will be represented thereat.

For many years it has been assumed that New South Wales is the predominant State so far as playing standard is concerned, but the game has advanced so rapidly in other States that this assumption has now become doubtful.

In a carnival held in Victoria, in 1952, at which four States — N.S.W., Victoria, South Australia and Queensland were represented, New South Wales were defeated by Victoria in the final; this defeat has added some measure of doubt to New South Wales' playing predominance.

The idea of introducing interstate competition in the manner of a carnival, will not only indicate which State has the most prominent team and which is entitled to hold The Football Association Trophy as veritable Australian champions, but its most important function will be to give the Australian selectors a much better opportunity of seeing the States best players in action, as a guide for the selection of future internationals.

In the selection of international players the task is very difficult because of distance between States and the inability of selectors to see sufficient players from all States in action.

At the interstate carnival, all States will be required to make available fourteen of their best players so that comparisons can be made. It is anticipated that the games will not only produce good prospects for future international honours, but also give some indication of the playing progress of players in all States.

In the last two years I have had the pleasure of seeing the game played in all States in the Commonwealth, and I must say I was agreeably surprised to note not only the remarkable progress of the game, in what was always known as the "weaker States", but the excellent individual players in those States. I really believe that if the various States associations can make available a team, composed of players I have seen; I have no doubt that not only will the carnival be interesting, but the selectors will see a good number of prospective internationals in action.

Win or Lose . . . Relax after the Game at

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The Australian team that played the Chinese in the final test in Adelaide in 1953 was made up of players from all States, and it was considered to be an experimental team to satisfy the whims of all State associations.

It was in effect an experimental team, but not a team to satisfy the whims of all State associations, and whilst the selectors may have felt that the inclusion of say a Western Australian and a Tasmanian player did not add strength to the Australian team, which had previously failed against the Chinese, they had no doubt that these two representatives, who I had seen previously, would not let the team down.

I saw that game, and I was more than impressed with the performance of the Western Australian and Tasmanian representatives, and I was also impressed with the performance of the other representatives from N.S.W., Victoria, Queensland and South Australia, notwithstanding the fact that these players had only one day together to get used to one another's play.

The performance of this team demonstrated that the introduction of an all States carnival is long overdue in effect, it is the only way we can see the best of each State in action.

If a State association is lax and does not make sure the best players in their State make up their team, then they should not be disappointed if their standard is overlooked.

With the Olympic Games of 1956 in view, it might also be politic if State associations kept this in mind when making their selections and concentrate on youth that will be called upon to represent Australia thereat and in any Australian team that will possibly go overseas within the next few years.

Not only did individual players in other States impress me, but the enthusiasm for the game was most abounding.

In all States the enthusiasm was so pronounced that every effort was being made to improve the style of play by engaging certified coaches, and to concentrate on tutoring schoolboys in the fundamentals of the game.

Another important function was the introduction of coaching classes for school teacher students in the teachers' colleges.

In States like Victoria and South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia, where an opposition code has continually harassed the soccer code the game has gained ground so rapidly that it is now strong opposition in public favour.

The introduction of a plan of continuous interstate visits, either in the form of a carnival every year in which all States are presented, or at least every three years with regular interstate visits between States in the intervening years, will do much to help the game in the Commonwealth and to give us a better understanding of the game and its progress in all States, which make up the Australian Association.

HAKOAH v. MORELAND

at ST. KEVIN'S OVAL — SATURDAY, APRIL 17

*

PRAHRAN v. HAKOAH

at COMO PARK — SATURDAY, APRIL 10

AROUND THE CLUBS

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY S.F.C.

After several disappointing seasons the M.U.S.F.C. should have its best year ever in 1954. The club has obtained a new ground (previously Juventus ground), new colours and many new players — several of whom will, unfortunately, miss early games through being in camp. However, once settled, the club has high hopes of success in league matches and is interested in meeting country teams for social games. Would any club secretaries interested please write to the M.U.S.F.C., c/o. University, N.3.

In conclusion, we would like to welcome the V.A.S.F.A. coach and all new players to victory and wish all teams, both senior and junior, the best of fortune for season 1954.

—Geoffrey B. Dobb.

SALE UNITED

The Sale United Soccer Club was formed in January, 1954, and already got off to a good start. The history of the club since it was formed is as follows:—

Office-bearers: Patron, Cr. G. N. Valentine, O.B.E., Mayor of Sale City; President, Mr. L. Nenuntzis; Vice-President and Treasurer, Mr. D. Knight; Acting-Secretary, L.A.C. McMahon; Captain, J. Hunt; Vice-Captain, P. John.

The club ground is the Friendly Societies ground at Sale, where Sale United played the Melbourne Second Division team, Yallourn, on Saturday, March 21, in their first game, and played very well to win 2-1, with the second half played at a fast pace. Peter John has the distinction of being the first scorer for the club—scoring both goals.

The Mayor of Sale was presented to the teams, and he was very proud to be patron of the club, and commented on the fact that the club had 10 nationalities in its ranks.

The club for the match produced a souvenir programme and believes it has the distinction of being one of the few clubs to produce a programme for a first game. Business people in Sale co-operated to produce it. The club is working with the Sale Branch of the Good Neighbors' Council.

PETER McMAHON.

THE ATTACKING INSIDE-FORWARD

By REX BENSON

There is always the danger of stagnation in any field of sport, and it includes soccer. New ideas and techniques to improve the play are always welcomed, providing, like the third-back game introduced by the late Herbert Chapman, they do not detract from the game as a spectacle.

Perhaps the latest innovation, and one that has borne fruit, is the attacking game of the Hungarians. The method is for the wing-halves to keep up, the inside-forwards to be on the attack, and for the centre-forward to hang back. Now the latter has always been considered as the spearhead of the attack, but it should not be a hard and fast rule. Anyway, this revised team formation tore holes in the English defence, and it did not prevent the centre-forward from getting three goals. There seems no reason why a team that has been getting nowhere by aimlessly booting it "up the middle" to an unsupported centre-forward, should not try this Continental system. It might pay dividends. One can be sure that the new coach of Juventus will not rely on time-worn tactics, and the style of play that the team will adopt as the season advances, will be interesting to watch.

JUNIOR SECTION

The Junior Association commences its 1954 season today with a record number of teams competing. Twenty-one clubs are fielding 47 teams. This is a record, but far from satisfactory, seeing that there are 48 senior clubs alone affiliated to the senior association. However, it's an improvement and we look forward to seeing more progress made as the years roll on.

We are pleased to see that Hakoah club is again entering junior ranks and we give them a big welcome. New clubs also welcomed are Fairfield, St. Kilda Juniors and Pascoe Vale Juniors. The St. Kilda Junior Soccer Club is in no way connected with the new St. Kilda senior club affiliated to the senior association.

Officials elected for the season are: President, The Hon. W. R. Dawnay-Mould; Vice-Presidents, Mr. J. Rickerby and Lt.-Col. H. A. Steel; Chairman, Mr. J. Parker; Deputy Chairman, Mr. A. Scott; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. A. Olsen; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. Oliphant; Hon. Assist-Secretary and Registrar, Mr. G. Ellis; Hon. Auditor, Mr. D. Hadfield; Hon. Solicitor, Mr. H. McJones; Compiler of Records, Mr. N. McFadyen; Property Steward, Mr. S. Newman; Delegates to V.A.S.F.A. Council, Messrs. R. Carlson and J. A. Olsen; Executive Council Members, Messrs. J. Parker, A. Scott, G. Ellis, J. Oliphant, J. A. Olsen, N. McFadyen, R. Westley, R. Carlson and D. Chambers.

The Junior Association has decided that there will be no junior games played over the Easter week-end, i.e., Saturday, April 17, and Monday, April 19.

Victoria will send an Under 20 team to Adelaide this season to take part in the Australian Junior Interstate Carnival. An invitation has been sent to Tasmania for a visit from that State of an Under 14 team.

Clubs are reminded that there are higher penalties for non-compliance of the rules this year. For instance, clubs failing to be represented at two or more successive meetings of the association without a reasonable excuse will incur an automatic fine of £1. The phoning of results to the official receiver of results is an important matter. Clubs failing to do so will be fined 10/- for the first offence, and an additional 5/- will be added to the fine on each successive offence.

Transfers have been made a little more difficult to obtain. The transfer form fee has been raised to 10/-.

These are only a few of the changes in the Constitution and the League Rules, and clubs who have not already obtained their new issue of the Association's Constitution, etc., are advised to do so at the next General Meeting to be held at Scott's Hotel on Wednesday night next, April 7.

Permission has been given by the Editor of this paper for an Equipment Pool to be commenced. Clubs or members of clubs who have any surplus football equipment to sell or exchange are asked to send particulars to the Secretary of the Junior Association. You may have an extra set of goal posts, nets, or an extra goalkeeper's jersey that you have no use for. Send particulars to the Secretary of the Junior Association and he may be able to dispose of them for you per medium of the Equipment Pool. The Secretary is Mr. J. A. Olsen, 314 Inkerman Street, East St. Kilda.

SNOWS "for men who care what they wear"

PRE-MATCH PRANCINGS

By REX BENSON

Is there any other value in arriving on the pitch before the start of a game, other than to feel the grip of the ground or to loosen the legs? I refer to the aimless hanging around the goal area before the kick-off, adopted by some clubs. The goal-keeper takes up position in goal, but the rest go anywhere, the object appearing to be for players, at random, to have a shot at goal, having first brought the ball under control, and conveniently placed it ahead of themselves for a shot with the favourite foot (for any player worth his salt this term should never be used). Everything, in fact, bar turning the laced side away.

The time would be much better utilised in adopting match conditions, that is, hitting the ball first time, however it comes. Some international keepers have had no chance to move when a good forward has hooked in a shot when the ball has come to him waist-high. Bringing it down to the ground before shooting (unless, of course, the player has ample time in the circumstances to do so) often gives the keeper just that time to position himself. It is the half chance that can win a match, and the player that can get accuracy only when the ball is "just right" should start learning ball control from scratch.

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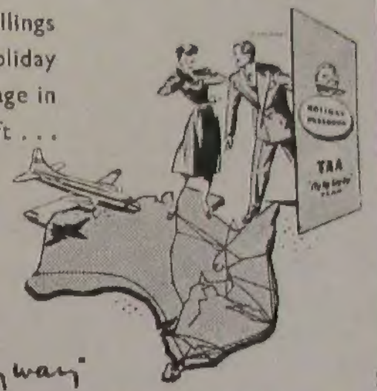

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